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# WAY BACK

# When

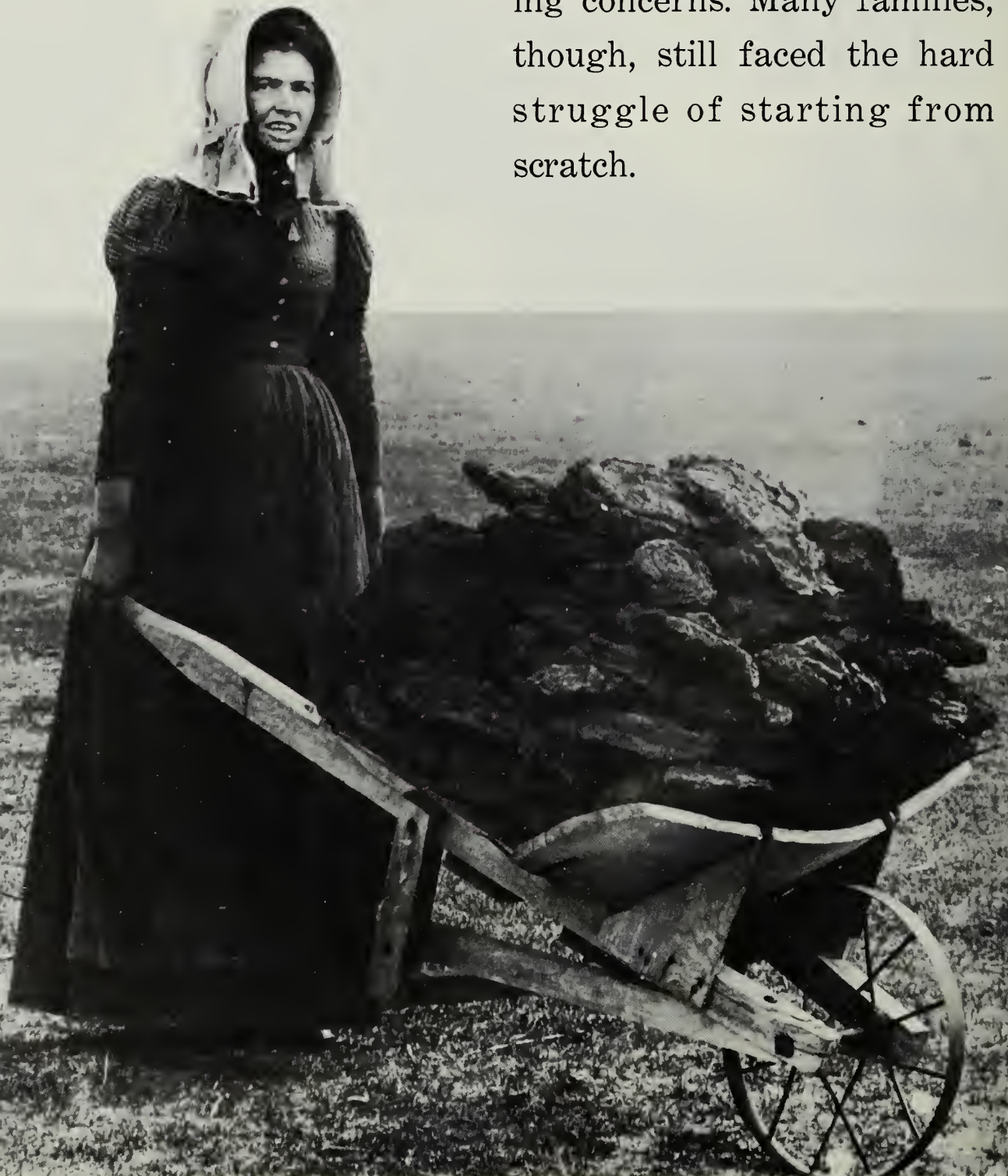


CEN-392

Life on the land in the old days.  
Issued as part of its Centennial observance  
by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

## *Getting Started* America began as

a rural nation. So by the 1860s, a lot of farms were already going concerns. Many families, though, still faced the hard struggle of starting from scratch.



Pushing into the unknown took grit, but settlers who could cope with whatever lay ahead had the chance to build a new and better life.

CEN-386



*The whole family poses proudly on a well-established farm near Black River Falls, Wisconsin.*



*Homesteading was a man-sized job, and big enough for a woman too. Shown is a "soddy" in Oklahoma Territory.*

CEN-416



*A frontier woman bosses oxen pulling a train of freight wagons through the Black Hills.*

BN-15746



*left to right: One-Tooth-Gone, Sole-of-Foot, Make-It-Long.*

BN-15745



*Denver, the 1860s. These wagons may have formed a circle just to make a better picture.*

BN-15747



*Clearing a 160-acre homestead was a battle with stumps, rocks, and mighty few tools.*

CEN-406



*Pioneers in do-it-yourself.*

CEN-410

*The first sale of lots in California's Imperial Valley, in 1904, helped open up one of the nation's richest farm areas. CEN-405*



*With his trusty Winchester, this gentleman is loaded for bear or most anything else.*

BN-15946-X



*Auctions early became a familiar part of rural life in America. Shown is one in Anadarko, Oklahoma Territory. CEN-404*

As men got land, worked it and built on it, not only farms but towns too began to spring up where none had ever been seen before. If the beginnings were raw, they forecast a future that seemed without limits.

*Guthrie, Oklahoma, burst into being between noon and nightfall on opening day of the spectacular land rush called the "Run of '89." Here is the main street shortly thereafter.*

CEN-403



Up in New England or out on the Great Plains, one thing all farmers and ranchers had in common was the everlasting necessity of . . .

## Getting the Work Done



*The women folk had chores indoors and out. Here, they tend celery on a New York farm.*



*A Virginia farmer spreads apples on his shed roof to dry.*

CEN-376



*Five harvesters, pulled by 165 horses and mules, at work in Washington, 1890s.*

CEN



*Christmas card from the days of steam tractors.*

CEN-422



*Georgia cotton pickers rest for a moment back in 1898.*

CEN-367





*Threshing wheat with steam  
power.*

CEN-417



*A scene as old as agriculture.*

DN-2010



*Taking oats to a trackside  
elevator in an Illinois town.*

CEN-368



*Harvesting with cradles, fore-  
runner of the mechanical reaper.*

CEN-421



*Harvesting vegetables in the  
early 1900s.*

CEN-407

*A rancher and his wife spend a quiet evening  
at home in their sod house. CEN-372*

*Work there was, and enough for everyone,  
but there was leisure as well.*

*Together, they made up . . .*

# THE LOOK OF *Country Life*

*Cow hands bed down on the open range.*

CEN-371



*Heading for the barn at day's end.*

CEN-396





*Time out to wet the whistle.*

CEN-425

*Two lads watch a steamplo  
and roller return from breaking 900  
acres of virgin soil. North Dakota, 1908.*

CEN-411





*Pulling contest on a Station Day in Wisconsin.* CEN-395



*Families were big and tightly knit in those bygone days, enjoying together such pleasures as Sunday dinner in the open air.*



*A Chautauqua audience in Indiana listens to William Jennings Bryan.* CEN-412

Family picnics, fiddle-playing, and the country store all added to the sights and sounds of rural life.

*An Alabama farm woman, absorbed in making her own music.* CEN-402



*Serving cheese from under glass jar that can be raised or lowered.* CEN-383



CEN-384



*Gingham, coal oil, and buggy whips were among the staple items in stores like this one.*



CEN-394

*A handsome team, a shiny new mower, and a well-kept house were prized possessions on any farm.*



CEN-423

*In an early Corn Club.*



CEN-373

*Proud entry in a parade in Portland, Oregon.*



*This soda fountain helped make the nineties gayer in Junction City, Kansas.*



CEN-375

*On the way to a funeral.*



CEN-414

*Chuck time around the kitchen wagon.*

CEN-393



CEN-426

Country life meant more than cows and corn. It also bred people who were individuals to the core. Resourceful and independent, they trusted in God, helped their neighbor, and relied on their own efforts.



Yet farmers had ties with the city too. For once the crops were harvested, the timber cut, the hogs fattened, an increasing share of the land's produce was needed for people in town.



CEN-409

## *Off to Market*

CEN-419



CEN-420





Many hands  
moved and shaped  
what came from  
the farms.

*A young worker in the food industry weighs crocks of raspberry preserves.*

CEN-382

CEN-38



*Carting barrels from a California winery in the nineties.*



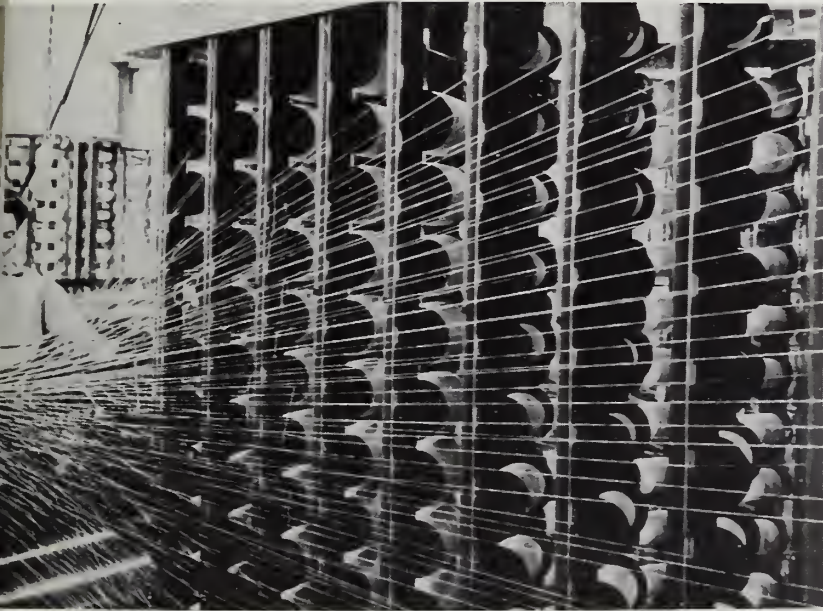
*Giant cotton press about the  
turn of the century.*

CEN-379



*Drawing in the warp in an  
early cotton mill.*

CEN-413



*Unloading sugar cane in New  
Iberia, Louisiana.*

CEN-381



*Open-air market  
in New York City  
around 1906.*

CEN-418



Growth Through Agricultural Progress

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